

**REMARKS**

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10 and 11 are allowed.

**Rejection of Claim 9**

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,629,067 Kotani et al (Kotani).

The Examiner's reading of Kotani is set forth in the Action and will not be repeated here except as necessary to an understanding of Applicants' traversal which is now presented.

**Traversal**

Kotani discloses zirconium silicate and cordierite as ceramic particles, but does not disclose amorphous silica particles or cordierite particles in combination with amorphous silica particles. Applicants amend claim 9 to distinguish Kotani. Support occurs at page 7, lines 2-4 and Examples 1-12 in the present specification.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

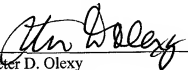
Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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